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27 August 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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RECORDED BY: [Signature]
DATE: 27 AUG 1958
FILE NUMBER: 19-80
RELEASER: [Signature]
AUTHOR: [Signature]
DATE: 27 JUL 1960
2010
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DIA and DOS review(s)
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Approved For Release 2002/08/16 : CIA-RDP79T00975A003900220001-4

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DAILY BRIEF

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

OK
Cyprus: Turkish acceptance of the interim British plan for Cyprus will increase Athens' feeling of isolation on this issue and will intensify pressure on the Karamanlis government. Ankara continues to regard partition as the ultimate solution to the problem.

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OK
Iran: The recent alleged conspiracy against the regime has been written off publicly by a government spokesman

as a frame-up for undisclosed "special reasons." While this episode may have been a clumsy attempt by one of the security chiefs to destroy another, unrest and anxiety continue. Popular criticism of the regime is increasing, and reports of further plotting within the army persist.

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Italy-Israel-Egypt: Prime Minister Fanfani plans to promote negotiations between Israel and Egypt. The Israelis would probably welcome direct negotiations with the UAR because this would imply recognition by the Arabs. Nasir is unlikely to consider such negotiations at this time.

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

Turks Accept British Plan for Cyprus

Turkey's 25 August acceptance of the modified British plan for Cyprus was made virtually certain by Greek rejection of the plan on 19 August. Turkish Cypriots, following Ankara's lead, can be expected to accept the plan and assist the British in implementing its provisions.

In announcing Turkish acceptance, Foreign Minister Zorlu emphasized that Ankara accepts the plan as an interim arrangement but continues to believe that partition of Cyprus is the only final solution to the problem. Zorlu specifically noted that Britain had again confirmed Colonial Secretary Lennox-Boyd's promise on 19 December 1956 that in the event self-determination was eventually granted to Cyprus, equal rights of self-determination would be given to both communities.

Ankara's acceptance of the plan will probably preclude further concessions by London to meet Greek objections. Athens had expected the Turkish move, which will be greeted in Greece with new charges of Anglo-Turkish collusion against the Greek Cypriots. The Greek Government and Archbishop Makarios will now concentrate efforts on gaining acceptance of a favorable resolution on Cypriot self-determination at the next regular session of the United Nations General Assembly. If the large majority of NATO members again votes against Athens in the United Nations, there will be heavy pressure in Greece for a foreign policy less closely associated with the West.

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Iranian Government Discounts Arrests

The Iranian Government, in an effort to discount recent reports of a conspiracy against the government, has announced over the radio that rumors of mass arrests of important persons in Tehran are false. It admits, however, that gendarmerie Colonel Ordubadi was arrested on 12 August, held for 11 days, and then released with apologies allegedly because he was the victim of a frame-up. The government claims that two low-level persons have been arrested, and have confessed to placing in Ordubadi's home, without his knowledge, a mimeograph machine used to produce papers calling for the establishment of a republic. Some high government figures probably were involved.

The arrests and rumors of arrests are part of the tension in Iran associated with the yearly celebration on 19 August of the overthrow of Prime Minister Mossadeq in 1953. Nonofficial Iranian circles had expected the day would be marked by disorder and possibly by an attempt at a coup. Speculation, especially among the poorer classes, centered on the name of Commander of the Army Major General Hossein Ariana as planning a coup.

The government made every effort during the celebration to stimulate public demonstrations of loyalty, and paid groups to engage in them. The public appeared to enjoy the entertainment provided, but the day was not successful as a demonstration of popular enthusiasm for the regime.

While the tensions seem to be easing now, open criticism of the regime, especially among the poorer classes, continues and the underlying conditions of potential instability remain.

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